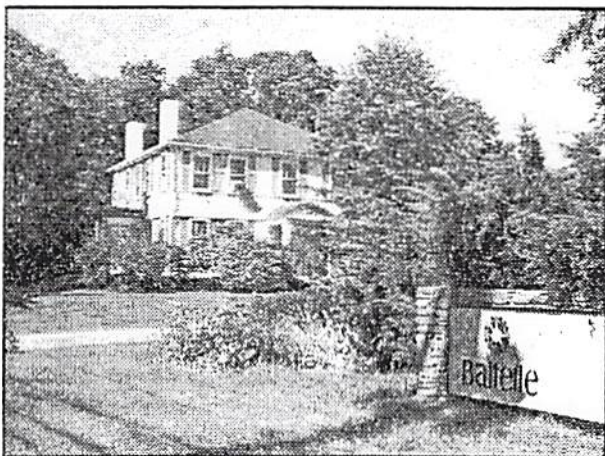


DUXBURY HISTORY FILE  
REFERENCE

# 'A QUIET neighbor'



Battelle laboratory  
sits on a  
picturesque  
campus in Duxbury

# MARINE SCIENCE LABORATORY IN DUXBURY HAS WORLD-WIDE REPUTATION

## "Stop!"

By  
**KENDRA JOHNSON**  
The Patriot Ledger

Battelle project manager Wayne Trulli shouts from the front of the boat while watching a color-coded graph plot itself on a computer screen.

On the deck behind him, a technician pushes a lever and the pulley on board comes to a halt. Suspended at the end of the pulley's rope, nearly 40 feet underwater, is a large cylinder containing 12 tall tubes.



Lab technician Beth Kitson checks the test tubes in a lab.

At different spots in Massachusetts Bay, the cylinder is lowered to collect water. Between each stop, the five technicians on board transfer the water to small bottles, which they label and store in a freezer.

Crew members are laid-back, dressed in sandals and shorts, but the water samples they

collect will help determine the impact of a sewage discharge system — a system that has been a decade in the making — when it goes online next month.

By the time the boat heads back to shore at 5:30 p.m., the field team has been on the water 10 hours.

Though the Battelle Aquamonitor is in plain sight returning to Hewitt's Cove Marina in Hingham, the company's offices and labs, where the water samples will be brought for testing, are tucked away in a campus-like complex on Washington Street in Duxbury.

The organization may be "a quiet neighbor," according to Joan Sundstrom, its marketing services director, but Battelle Memorial Institute is a well-known name in the world of research and technology.

Among the jobs done at the Duxbury site, the company's ocean sciences laboratory, are environmental consulting and forensic investigations to identify pollutants.

The nonprofit research organization has headquarters in Columbus, Ohio and offices around the nation and Europe. Ninety-five scientists and support staff work at the Duxbury site, a 12-acre complex with eight buildings. The Duxbury facility specializes in marine science.

# Duxbury lab focuses on marine science

## BATTELLE

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Battelle's reputation in the field stems from the quality of the science conducted there.

Sundstrom said Battelle is set apart from its competition because it oversees the analysis of samples from the testing tubes to the final data report.

She also said the company only relies on results from tests conducted in its own company labs.

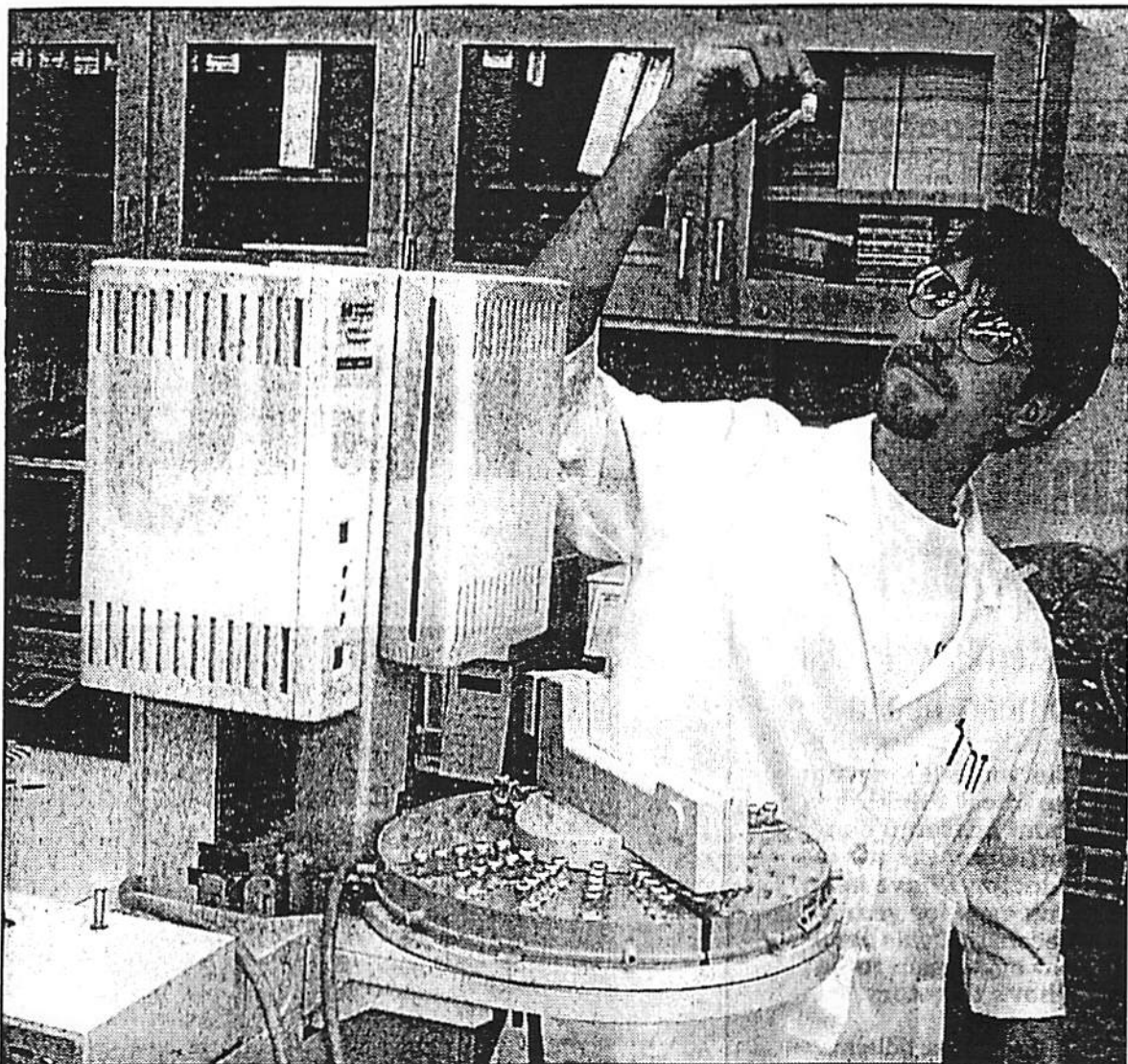
"That's the cutting edge," Sundstrom said. "That's when you know the data you're evaluating is positive-accurate."

Battelle employees gather water samples using the company's research vessel, the Aquamonitor, a 49-foot single-engine converted lobster boat. In the winter, field studies can last several days and technicians travel on a larger fishing boat.

On the recent trip to the bay, the crew included subcontracted captain at Kelley, Battelle project manager Rulli, chief scientist-in-training Elizabeth Bruce and four technicians. Another contracted researcher was on board to record any mammals on lobster boats. Recording the animals and their location is part of a monitoring program to determine the effect of the sewage on the surrounding environment.

Battelle employees said they like a variety of their work.

"There are so many different projects. This is just one of the types of things we do," said technician Lynda Fort. "It's never monotonous."

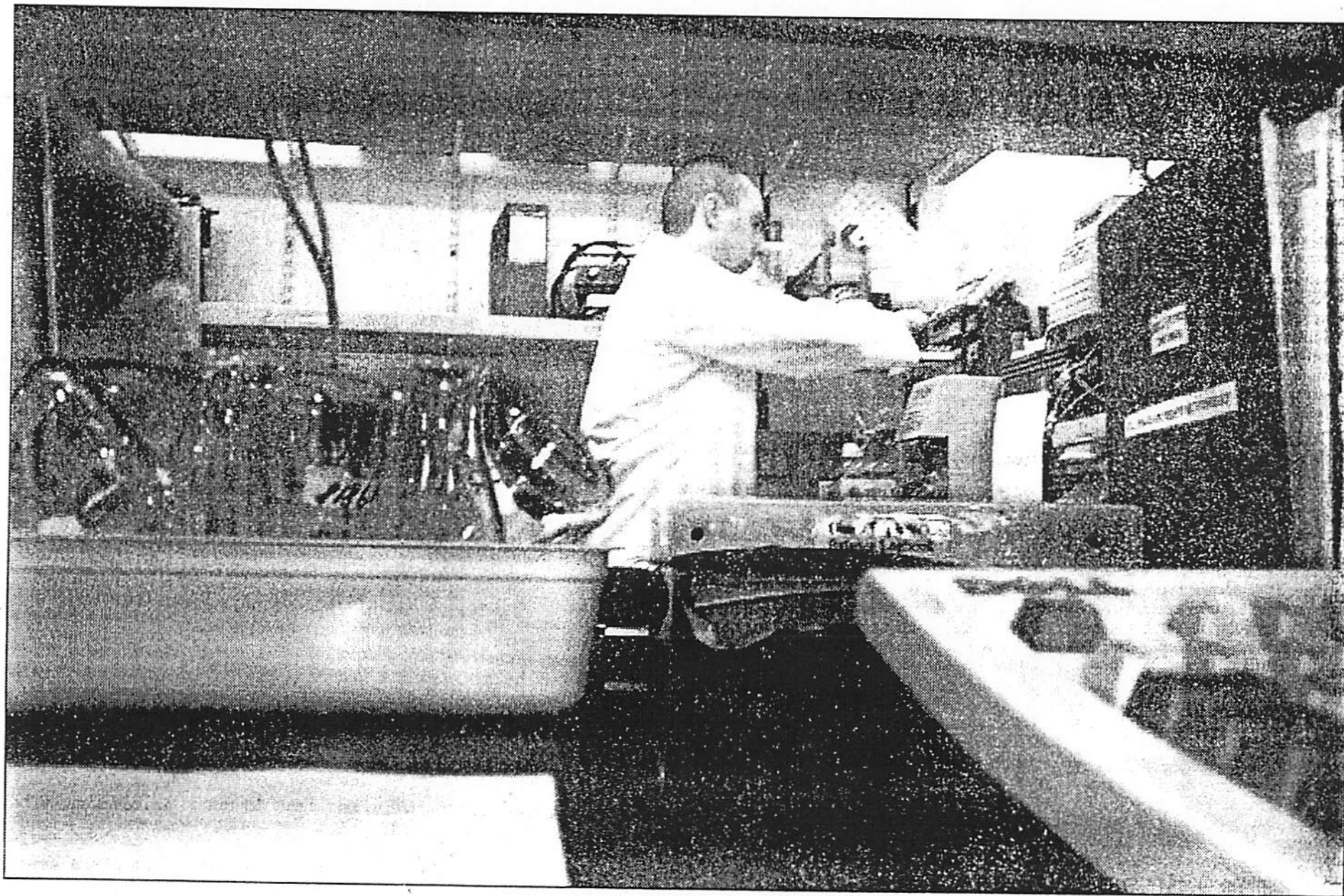


BERT LANE photo

Lab technician Peter Fredette analyzes the chemical content of a tissue sample at Battelle in Duxbury.



Lab Manager  
Richard Motta  
places samples in a  
machine that  
removes  
compounds not  
needed for  
analysis.



The company developed the Battelle Ocean Sampling System used on the trip that, when immersed in water, collects samples and graphs information about the water on a computer screen in real time. The colorful graph shows how the temperature, chlorophyll level, salinity and amount of dissolved oxygen change with depth.

Battelle technicians collected the water samples for a monitoring program for the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority. Battelle has a three-year contract with the agency to test the water's marine life and nutrient content before and after a new 9.5 mile underwater sewage discharge tunnel goes online in September.

"All the stuff we're doing now is baseline monitoring — it's, 'What does the environment look like now?'" Bruce said.

Seventeen times a year, Battelle collects samples at different sites around the outfall and will compare test data before and after the system is activated to determine what effect it has on the marine environment.

MWRA data manager Joseph Lo-buglio called the project one of the largest monitoring programs in the nation. He accompanied the field study crew on a recent trip to see firsthand how they collect the data that he compiles.

Battelle's clientele is divided between government and industry and includes Chevron, Exxon, the Coast Guard and the Navy. Battelle employees collect material, analyze samples and present their findings in reports.

Sundstrom said clients determine the amount and type of research they want from Battelle.

"Our research is tops and our

clients know that," Sundstrom said. "But if they only want a Ford, not a Mercedes, we can do that, too."

Battelle in Duxbury was originally the William F. Clapp Laboratories, established in the early 1930s to study the damage caused by shipworms on wharves and boats. The labs became part of Battelle Memorial Institute in 1965.

The company has a long history in town and a strong presence in the community. Among other activities, Battelle sponsors a Boy Scout troop, donates money to the Art Association and awards scholarships to seniors. The Battelle complex is also the site of an annual summer South Shore Bay Band concert.

"We want to be low-key," Sundstrom said. "We try to fit in. We want the community to be proud of what we do."

One of the Duxbury complex's latest additions is a temporary ma-

rine mammal rehabilitation center, a satellite site for the New England Aquarium. The center will have life support systems, a critical care pool and a larger rehabilitation pool that will be used to care for sick and injured animals such as dolphins and harbor porpoises.

The center will not be open to the public, but a video link will allow visitors to the aquarium and local schools and organizations to watch the staff as they treat the animals.

The center will be staffed with aquarium employees but is being built at a satellite location because the aquarium is being expanded and has less space available while work is underway.

The \$200,000 facility is being constructed behind the administration building on the edge of Duxbury Bay. Sundstrom said there are plans for a ribbon-cutting ceremony in September.